

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)
Funding Guidance for Darfur, Sudan
January 12, 2007

This document provides guidance to award applicants for humanitarian activities in Darfur, Sudan, for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007. This is a “living” document and may be revised at anytime through July 2007. Please review the guidelines before proposal submission to ensure that any changes made to this document are reflected in your proposal.

USAID/OFDA will consider activities and initiatives in Darfur not included in these guidelines provided that: (1) the activities are based on justified needs; (2) the interventions are appropriate for the region; and (3) beneficiary populations are within USAID/OFDA’s mandate, which is to save lives, alleviate human suffering, and reduce the social and economic impact of humanitarian emergencies worldwide.

All agencies intending to submit a proposal for funding must follow USAID/OFDA’s revised Guidelines for Proposals and Reporting issued on December 15, 2006 and can be found at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/resources/#grants

USAID/OFDA intends to address the basic humanitarian needs of civilian populations without creating or exacerbating tensions among communities. USAID/OFDA will consider funding programs in all three Darfur states in areas of IDP concentration, potential return, or affected by conflict. USAID/OFDA will prioritize assistance for newly displaced and other populations with urgent humanitarian needs. USAID/OFDA will continue to support sustainable programming and skills transfer to host populations. When and where possible, USAID/OFDA encourages partners to move away from direct implementation and more towards programs that promote self reliance.

USAID/OFDA programs should address Cross-Cutting Themes that are appropriate to the proposed sectors and sub-sectors, such as Capacity Building/Training, Conflict Resolution, Gender Relations, Livelihoods/Income Generation, and Protection Mainstreaming (see USAID/OFDA Guidelines pgs. 109-120). All programs should be flexible enough to allow for adjustment should there be a change in the situation on the ground. Programs should minimize duplication of efforts and promote information sharing among implementers, donors, and other key stakeholders to ensure a unified and coherent response. Programs should also use the required indicators listed in the guidelines as per the guidance.

USAID/OFDA will accept and consider proposals on a rolling basis. However, applicants should submit proposals to USAID/OFDA no later than June 30, 2007, for consideration in FY 2007,¹ which ends on September 30, 2007. Proposals for follow-on funding or cost extensions should be received no later than 45 days before the planned end date of the current award. Programs proposed should have implementation periods from a minimum of nine to a maximum of twelve months. Official proposals should be submitted by agency headquarters to Anita Malley (amalley@usaid.gov) and Jane Strachan (jstrachan@usaid.gov). Approval of proposals is subject to funds availability.

All programs must show well thought-out, long-term sustainability plans and exit strategies as well as short-term plans for program continuation during periods of limited access.

¹ Date of June 30, 2007 is subject to change depending on the availability of funds.

Shelter and Settlements

Recent assessments indicate a significant lack of adequate shelter, particularly in camp settings. USAID/OFDA is interested in increasing support in this sector and improving coordination among NGOs addressing the shelter needs of IDPs. Therefore, USAID/OFDA's strategy for programming in this sector includes activities that:

- Address the immediate and urgent needs of IDPs—both in camps and other locations—in a fair and consistent manner;
- Recognize the need to provide different forms of assistance to the newly displaced, those who have been settled in locations for up over two years, and those who may be returning to home communities;
- Rely, to the extent possible, on readily-available and locally-familiar building materials that are accessed through local and regional markets, and utilize local labor, to create new or enhanced shelter solutions, *cognizant of Sphere Project guidelines*;
- Please note that USAID/OFDA does not recognize distribution of plastic sheeting alone as an acceptable **remedy** to current shelter needs. Further, if plastic sheeting is proposed, it should be covered by readily-available and locally-familiar materials (e.g. millet straw, sand, etc.) to maintain durability and usefulness over time, reduce the frequency of costly, periodic replenishments, and reduce heat transfer to interior living spaces;
- Include, where needed, technically-acceptable fuel-efficient stoves (FES);
- Reflect mitigation of any significant environmental impacts that might be generated by shelter activities (e.g. expansion of millet production to increase supply of millet straw); and
- Strengthen coordination, participation, and dissemination among shelter sector actors, particularly with/through camp management and any other coordination mechanisms that currently exist.

Health and Nutrition Sectors

USAID/OFDA aims to maintain the progress that has been made in health and nutrition over the past year. In an environment with limited access for humanitarian interventions, USAID/OFDA will prioritize support for activities that focus on the prevention and management of the major causes of morbidity and mortality in children under 5 including measles, malaria, diarrhea, acute respiratory tract infections, and malnutrition as well as emergency obstetric care. The following are examples of activities that OFDA would encourage:

- Programs with a strong emphasis on preventive care through community-based health education, including community health and hygiene-promotion activities (linked with water, sanitation, and hygiene programs). Community health activities, such as prevention of malaria, diarrhea, and measles; improvement of health-seeking behavior; and promotion of breastfeeding and appropriate infant and child feeding, are examples of preferred preventive health interventions;

- Support for existing basic primary health care services and nutrition programs that address the management of the major causes of morbidity and mortality using national protocols in camps, host communities, and areas for return—security permitting—with an emphasis on programming that supports *sustainable* Ministry of Health structures and strengthens community-based capacity in a coordinated effort with other partners. Please note that pharmaceuticals are restricted items and, if these items are to be purchased using USAID funds, all USAID/OFDA requirements MUST be met (see pgs 63-68 of the new guidelines);
- Programs that relate to, feed into, or otherwise support early warning and surveillance systems for health and nutrition, as well as strengthen the routine Expanded Program on Immunizations (EPI) and National Immunization Days (NID) with an emphasis on measles immunization (with Vitamin A), including micronutrients, through the Ministry of Health structures currently in place;
- Ongoing nutrition monitoring and support to feeding programs through Community Therapeutic Care programs. USAID/OFDA will also consider funding of therapeutic and supplementary feeding centers where necessary; and
- For all health and nutrition activities, USAID/OFDA looks favorably upon community-based health education programming that measures behavior change through knowledge, attitude, and practice surveys or other data collection techniques. To ensure standardization of protocols, monitoring impact, and sharing limited resources, applicants are highly encouraged to coordinate efforts to streamline activities.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

USAID/OFDA will strive to maintain achievements in the water, sanitation, and hygiene sector. USAID/OFDA recently funded a water availability survey for Darfur and held training sessions with U.N. and NGO partners in Khartoum. If applicants are planning to undertake water activities, please include in the proposal evidence of communication and coordination with UNESCO and UNICEF. To achieve water, sanitation, and hygiene goals, USAID/OFDA will support the following types of activities:

- Maintenance and expansion as necessary of water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion initiatives in existing camps and host communities that provide critical levels of services and maintain internationally-recognized standards. Although access to water is a critical issue in Darfur, resource mining and unsustainable use of water resources (extraction exceeding aquifer recharge rate) should be avoided and proposal should reflect mitigation of any significant environmental impacts that might be generated by drilling and other water provision/use activities.
- Establishment of water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion initiatives that serve new or increasing IDP populations;
- Support to rehabilitate and reconstruct water and sanitation facilities in rural communities where peace-building efforts are occurring, the environment is secure, and realistic long-term technical support is available; and

Livelihoods (now Economy and Market Systems Sector or Agriculture as appropriate)

For livelihoods activities, USAID/OFDA will aim to provide both immediate income-generation opportunities to IDPs and prepare residents for return with skills that are applicable and transferable to home communities or locations of settlement and traditional lifestyles. Programs under any sector other than Economy and Market Systems that have livelihoods activities should choose among a variety of livelihoods-related Cross-Cutting Themes. These include Artisanal Production; Cash Distribution; Cash-for-Work; Infrastructure Rehabilitation; Livelihoods/Income Generation, etc. Activities that USAID/OFDA is interested in funding include:

- Programs that address the needs of camp residents through long-term capacity building and skills development as well as short-term CFW and income-generation activities. Short-term CFW activities should have immediate economic impact but be designed around identified camp and community needs. Skills should be applicable and realistic livelihood opportunities that can be transferred to areas where IDPs intend to settle or return;
- Sustainable income-generation activities and skills development training benefiting farming families, including training of animal health workers, improved farming techniques, agriculture extension activities, demonstration plots for improved farming techniques (such drip irrigation and crop diversification), and demonstration of new varieties and small vegetable gardens;
- Environmentally-focused activities including, but not limited to, tree planting (fruit trees and acacias) and improved techniques to reduce water evaporation, particularly if IDPs are accessing their own lands at home;
- Veterinary medicines and vaccination supplies that address sustainability through such mechanisms as beneficiary purchase of supplies and services and training of animal health workers as appropriate. Please note that veterinary pharmaceuticals are restricted items and, if these items are to be purchased using USAID funds, all USAID/OFDA requirements MUST be met (see pgs 63-68 of the new guidelines); and
- Activities that support livelihood patterns of pastoralists while reducing the potential for conflict between herders and farmers.

Agriculture and Food Security

USAID/OFDA is currently assessing the viability of continued agriculture and food security interventions. Additional information will be forthcoming. Please check for future updates within this sector.

Protection

USAID/OFDA encourages partners to incorporate protection considerations into the design and implementation of all programs in order to assist IDPs and other vulnerable populations to reduce or manage the risk of violence, abuse, harassment, and exploitation through the application of Protection Mainstreaming as a Cross-Cutting Theme. Under its new Protection sector, USAID/OFDA will also consider stand-alone protection objectives and innovative ways to protect vulnerable populations. In particular, USAID/OFDA is interested in supporting the following:

- Programs that prevent and/or reduce the impact of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) against women and youth in Darfur. Activities may include medical and psychosocial services for SGBV survivors;
- Programs that address coordination and protection activities in underserved IDP camps and settlements. Camp coordination activities should strengthen participatory management skills and structures within IDP communities for effective protection within camps as well as preparation for returns. Programs should include capacity building measures to strengthen communities' abilities to provide protection for their most vulnerable members;
- Training programs for income generation, livelihoods skills, and health and hygiene promotion that focus on women, youth, and children. Women need appropriate income-generation opportunities to reduce their exposure to risks. Youth are an underserved population in need of income-generation and livelihoods opportunities. Children should receive appropriate learning opportunities within safe spaces and community centers; and
- Programs for youth with limited opportunities who may be considering joining an armed faction.